

AMENDMENT AND PRESENTATION OF CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 1 without prejudice or disclaimer and add new claims 20-44 as follows:

1-19. (Canceled)

20. (New) A method for communication to a called party, comprising:

receiving a request for a call to a telephone number of the called party initiated via a circuit-switched network;

determining multiple destinations associated with the called party based on the telephone number; and

multicasting respective call notifications over a packet-switched network to the multiple destinations, wherein at least one of the destinations is a communications device coupled to the packet-switched network via a circuit-switched network.

21. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein said at least one of the destinations includes a telephone, pager, or voice mail system.

22. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein the step of determining multiple destinations includes looking up a plurality of Internet Protocol (IP) addresses based on the telephone number.

23. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein the step of multicasting includes multicasting to each of the plurality of IP addresses based on the telephone number.

24. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein at least one of the destinations is a computer device.

25. (New) The method of claim 20, further comprising:
receiving a receipt notification from one of the destinations; and
in response to said receiving the receipt notification, canceling the call notification to at least one of the other destinations.

26. (New) The method of claim 20, further comprising establishing a communication with at least one of the multiple destinations.

27. (New) A method for communication, comprising:
receiving a call notification for a called party;
extracting identification information of the called party from the call notification;
determining multiple destinations associated with the called party;
multicasting respective call notifications over a packet-switched network to the multiple destinations, wherein at least one of the destinations is a communications device coupled to the packet-switched network via a circuit-switched network; and
establishing a communication with more than one of the destinations.

28. (New) The method of claim 26 wherein the established communication comprises an audio communication.

29. (New) A communication system comprising:

a plurality of converters having a same network address, each converter operable to sample voice signals and create digital packets containing a representation of the voice signals;

a database associating telephone numbers with each of a plurality of subscribers; and

a computer system operable, upon receipt of a call notification from a caller to a subscriber, to query the database to retrieve the telephone numbers associated with the subscriber and multicasting respective digital call notification packets to a plurality of the converters at the same network address, the digital notification packets including information relating to the telephone numbers.

30. (New) The system of claim 29, wherein each of the converters comprises:

at least one modem;

a router coupled to the modem; and

control circuitry coupled to both the modem and the router.

31. (New) The system of claim 29, wherein the computer system communicates with the converters through a packet-switched network.

32. (New) The system of claim 31, wherein the same network address is a same Internet Protocol (IP) address.

33. (New) The system of claim 29, wherein the computer system comprises a plurality of interlinked computers.

34. (New) The system of claim 29, and further comprising a plurality of communication devices, each communication device coupled to receive a call notification from the caller via one of the converters.

35. (New) The system of claim 29, wherein each converter is also operable to create voice signals from a digital packet.

36. (New) A communication system comprising:

means for accessing a database associating addresses of respective communication devices with each of a plurality of subscribers in response to a request for call to a telephone number of a subscriber initiated from a telephone on a circuit-switched network;

means for multicasting respective digital call notification packets via a packet-switched network, the digital notification packets addressed to each of the addresses associated with a subscriber; and

means for forwarding one of the digital call notification packets from the packet-switched network to a corresponding one of communication devices via a circuit-switched network.

37. (New) The system of claim 36, wherein at least some of the addresses comprise telephone numbers.

38. (New) The system of claim 36, wherein at least some of the addresses comprise IP addresses.

39. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein the multiple transmission includes an IP (Internet Protocol) multicast transmission.

40. (New) The system of claim 36, wherein the means for forwarding is further configured for translating the digital call notification into an analog signal that causes the corresponding one of the communication devices to ring.

41. (New) A method for communication to a called party, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a request for a call to a telephone number of the called party initiated from a telephone on a circuit-switched network;

determining multiple destinations associated with the called party based on the telephone number;

multicasting respective call notifications over a packet-switched network to the multiple destinations; and

forwarding at least one of the multiple call notifications from the packet-switched network to a device via a circuit-switched network.

42. (New) The method of claim 41, wherein the device is a telephone, pager, or voice mail system.

43. (New) The system of claim 41, wherein the step of forwarding includes translating the digital call notification into an analog signal that causes the corresponding one of the communication devices to ring.

44. (New) A method for communication over a packet-switched network, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a call notification for a telephone number;

determining multiple destinations associated with the telephone number; and

multicasting respective call notifications over the packet-switched network to the multiple destinations; and

establishing a conference communication with a plurality of the multiple destinations.